

## LOCAL OPTION.

It is often urged that third party Prohibitionists are opposed to local option, and work against it. We are not opposed to local option, and in all our history and extensive acquaintance with Prohibition party voters, we have never yet seen or heard of one, when a local fight was up, that voted against local option or said aught against the proposed measure. However, Prohibitionists look on local option as being one form of license and contend that the saloon cannot be killed by local option alone.

Whatever we say in this article must not be construed to mean that we are opposed to local option. So that much must be dismissed.

There is an organization in this state which everybody is acquainted with, known as the Inter-Denominational Temperance League, whose aims and intentions are to secure local option in every county possible. Its aim is good; that is, local option is better than high license. But its method of securing even local option is what we object to, and right here is the vital power of our subject, and if we are a little tedious please forgive us of this one intrusion.

That the League's intentions are good and its ultimate aim is wholesome, we do not deny; but we do insist and want to make it plain that its plans and mode of warfare are wholly impracticable and cannot bear up under a test case.

In the first place it appeals to its enemies for what it wants—that is, to the old parties.

The two old parties have enacted every liquor law there is on the statute books of every state in the Union and on the statute books of the United States. That much the old parties have done.

Again, when the people rose up in their might, and in spite of the two old parties, demanded a constitutional amendment and voted on the question, as they did in Kansas and Maine, the two old parties, and in this case it was the Republican party, rendered the law of but little effect because of its truckling with the liquor element. In Georgia, a Democratic state, the people demanded a vote upon this question and it carried, but as soon as Prohibition carried all over the state the Democratic party, led by Gov. Tilman, proceeded at once to nullify the law and in its stead instituted and inaugurated the disgraceful "Dispensary" system, which is a governmental saloon.

It is to these corrupt party organizations that the "Temperance League" is appealing for help.

The Prohibitionists come up and tell the people the old parties are whisky parties, are allies of the saloon, and to go into a combination or an agreement with them is to insure defeat, but that the only way to do is for all who are in sentiment agreed against the liquor traffic to form them a party of their own and be willing to wait until this party gets strong enough to take into its hands the reins of the whole

government. That is the third party plan.

Another important feature about the league's method, and the third party's method, is the way each raises its campaign funds. The Prohibitionists go to their own people, in their own meetings, and appeal for funds for the use of the party with the understanding it is for party work. The league also takes up collections in its own meetings, and makes appeals for its use through its own paper. Thus far we are equal, and are willing to grant unto the league the same privilege accorded our party.

But the league is not content in taking up collections in its own meetings, and making appeals for funds through its own papers, but go right into our religious bodies and make public appeals for funds and subscriptions to its work. It makes it on the supposition that the league is non-partisan, when in fact it is omni-partisan, and every dollar given to the league will perpetuate the two old parties in power. It is true, that so far as we are aware, the league has never supported any party in Kentucky except the Republican party, but it reserves the right to support the Democratic party at any time it sees fit to do so.

Now it is plain that when a person makes a subscription to this league he makes a subscription to one or the other of the two old parties. We don't see any reason why all Democrats and Republicans who want to see their party perpetuated in power should not rally to the league's financial support, unless the individual giver has reasons to believe his party will not get its pro rata.

But for the league, whose aim is to support one of the old parties, to come before a religious body that has no politics and through a misrepresentation of the whole affair, commit that body to its work of perpetuation, we must acknowledge we are a little humiliated and chagrined, and believe the people should understand the situation.

Why is it that any religious body should commit itself to any organization whose intention is to keep alive one or both of the two whisky parties, and at the same time allow collections to be taken for its support? If the Inter-Denominational union is allowed that privilege, we insist that the same privilege should be accorded the Prohibition party, and which we have never asked for and will not ask for.

Why is it the league should be recognized in the gatherings and the Prohibition party be ignored?

It is the time of year now for associations and assemblies of all kinds to be held, and we suggest to our party Prohibitionists that when the matter spoken of above comes up for settlement that they inquire into the affair and ascertain of possible why the party whose aim is the national destruction of the saloon system is ignored?

Let the Prohibitionists of Kentucky demand of our religious bodies the same fair treatment that is accorded the league, and all will be well.

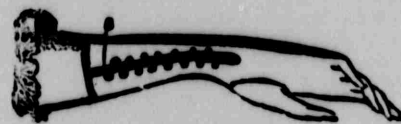
"To vote for the best man" simply means that you will vote for your party's nominee.

If you see the need of our people being kept informed on the Prohibition question, speak to your friends and get them to take the Vindicator. It costs only 25 cents per year and no one will hardly refuse you. If you want to do still a greater work for our cause get them to take both the Vindicator and the New Voice. The two papers cost but one dollar.

A big scramble will soon be on in this state as to what party will go to the next legislature. So far as we are concerned we do not care, for whichever way it goes the saloon will not be molested. The saloon runs the two old parties in Kentucky and everybody knows it. They may succeed in fooling a few temperance men, but they cannot fool a well-informed third party Prohibitionist.

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